

## **NCP PRESS RELEASE:**

Over the past three years, 2006-2009, the Nebraska Colon Cancer Screening Program was one of only five programs in the nation to receive funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in order to operate a colon cancer screening demonstration program. Over those three years the program has hit the following milestones:

- 5306 men and women enrolled
- 2262 screening encounters
  - 1597 FOBTs
  - 672 colonoscopy
- 254 colonoscopies with polyps removed
- 2 diagnosis of high grade polyp (pre cancerous lesion)
- 5 cancers diagnosed

That particular demonstration phase has now come to an end and in 2009 the program was awarded additional dollars in order to carry out the program and the important services that it provides for the next five (5) years!

**What does this mean for the men and women of Nebraska?** It means that Nebraskans 50 years of age and older and who fall within income guidelines, can continue to enroll in the program in order to receive important screening services for little or no cost.

Colorectal cancer is the only common form of cancer that occurs more frequently in Nebraska than in the rest of the United States. While there is evidence that screening for colorectal cancer can significantly reduce mortality, only about 1/3 of adults over 50 in Nebraska report having received screening in the last five years.

While Nebraska wants to always been in the top ten nationally for sport, we don't want to be anywhere near that for cancer. Did you know that Nebraska is 8<sup>th</sup> out of 50 states for colon cancer incidence and 17<sup>th</sup> in the nation for colon cancer deaths? When it comes to colon cancer, you should play the percentages. If colon cancer is detected early, it is 90% curable. That's a great percentage to play by.

Any Nebraskan, over the age of 50, is **eligible to enroll** into the NCP, when their income falls within program guidelines. For example, a family of four can make up to \$49,613 a year and be eligible for services. Based on personal and family health history, program staff will determine which test is best for screening, following program guidelines. Currently, a fecal occult blood test (FOBT) kit, which is an at home testing kit, or a colonoscopy is used for screening procedures.

It is important that if you are 50 years of age and older and need to be screened for colon cancer or know of a friend or loved one that may qualify for program services, call the program at 1-800-532-2227 for more information and to receive an enrollment form.

**Early detection through screening may save your life and theirs!**